

**For Immediate Release News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin Contact:☐  
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**Rep. Herseth Sandlin Statement on EPA and E15**

**December 1, 2009, Washington D.C.** - U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin released the following statement today following EPA's notification that it would delay action on a waiver request to allow blending of up to 15% ethanol in gasoline. While EPA did not take action today, the agency wrote that it "expects to make a final determination in mid-2010 regarding whether to increase the allowable ethanol content in fuel."

Herseth Sandlin said, "It's clear that without action by EPA to approve E15 in the near future, our nation will not achieve the requirements for cellulosic biofuels set out in the Renewable Fuel Standard. South Dakota stands ready to both contribute to and benefit from a move to E15.

"Earlier this year, I led a bipartisan coalition of House members in urging EPA to allow blending up to E15, and to approve E12 on an interim basis. While I'm disappointed that EPA isn't making a decision on allowing E12 or E15 now, given all of the scientific evidence that is available, I'm encouraged by EPA's stated commitment to a timeline that would allow approval of E15 by the middle of next year.

"It's important to ensure that EPA keeps to that timeline. The decision to press the issue with EPA through a waiver request was a smart strategy that promises to keep our nation on track to meet the Renewable Fuel Standard, cut foreign oil imports, foster economic development in rural states, and help consumers at the pump."

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